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PATENT APPLICATION
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**METHOD OF PREVENTING COMBUSTION BY
APPLYING AN AQUEOUS SUPERABSORBENT
POLYMER COMPOSITION; AND FIRE RETARDANT
ARTICLE INCLUDING SUPERABSORBENT POLYMER**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of preventing or retarding a combustible object from burning includes the steps of mixing water with a superabsorbent polymer ("SAP") to form one at least partially hydrated SAP, and applying the at least partially hydrated SAP to the combustible object, before or after combustion. In another embodiment, an article of manufacture includes a SAP, that is prehydrated, or hydrated at a later time, is useful for preventing a combustible object from burning, or for providing a human fire shield or preventing penetration of extreme heat or fire to a firefighter or other animal.